K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Proposals for import of technologies for commercial production of solar cells using crystaline silicon were under the consideration of Government. In this regard in 1986, the Government examined the technologies of solar cells using crystaline silicon, which have been established for commercial production only and noted that the production technologies at Central Electronics Ltd. (CEL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) were comparable with similar proven technology elsewhere in the world. Hence import of comparable technology to produce silicon solar cells is not being allowed.

Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) of Ministry of Defence had developed silicon solar cells in late 60s, for which import substitution award was given by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in December 1969. Silicon solar cell arrays consisting of approximately 180 cells were made for powering transreceiver sets. This technology of the silicon solar cells was referred to NRDC in 1971 but there was little response from entrepreneurs.

(c) Does not arise.

Area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India

1901. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India in the Indian Ocean and total area of sea surrounding India;

(b) what is the target of fish harvest during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) what is the target of polymetallic nodules to be exploited during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) whether the work in this regard is going on as per schedules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The total area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India is 2.02 million sq. km. and that of the Indian Ocean is 73.6 million sq. km.

(b) The target of fish harvest for the Seventh Plan is 3.4 million tonnes consisting of 2.0 million tonnes of marine fish and 1.4 million tonnes of inland fish.

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, in the area of polymetallic nodules, work will be confined to extensive survey and exploration and research and development work on extractive metallurgy and environmental studies on mining.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Per capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line

1902. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per-capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line and in which year this was fixed; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to revise the level of per-capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line considering the revised value of the Rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In the absence of income distribution statistics, the poverty line is fixed on the basis of per capita monthly expenditure.

The concept of poverty line used by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendation of 'Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand' appointed by the Planning Commission which submitted its report in 1979. According to this report, the poverty line is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined this way covers the expenditure of food and non-food items (such as fuel, clothing, housing, health, education and other social services) and ensures the adequacy of calorie consumption. This concept which was used for the Sixth Plan is continued for the Seventh Plan also. The poverty line is updated using the implict CSO private Consumption Deflator as proxy for price rise in the consumption basket of persons near the poverty line. The updated poverty line is Rs. 107 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 122 per capita per month in urban areas at 1984-85 prices (base year of the Seventh Plan).

(b) As indicated in reply to Part (a) above the poverty line is updated for the year for which the poverty calculations ore made, considering the price rise upto that year.

Fiscal policies initiated by former Finance Minister

1903. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to an interview which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 1st February, 1987 with former Minister for Finance regarding document on Long Term Fiscal Policy; and

(b) whether it is correct that present fiscal policies and various activities are likely to be reversed as these have retarded industrial growth and violated Industrial Policy Resolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. The interview, however, does not relate to the document on Long Term Fiscal Policy.

(b) No, Sir.

Non payment of Customs Duties by The Indian Express Private Ltd., Bombay

1904. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Company Law Department has referred the case relating to detection of some irregularities and non-payment of custom duty by the Indian Express Private Limited, Bombay from 1981 onwards to the Finance Ministry for necessary action;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to collect the amount which the Company has not paid as Custom duty on the newsprint; and

(c) what is the amount of custom duty due to the Indian Express Private Limited, Bombay from 1981 till date on newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) An extract of a report